

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers

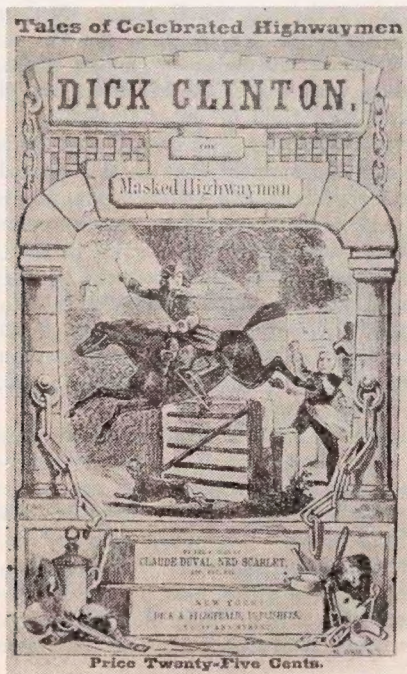
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## Favorite Boyhood Characters on the British Scene Part II

By W. O. G. Lofts and D. J. Adley



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES No. 200

TALES OF CELEBRATED HIGHWAYMEN

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## Favorite Boyhood Characters on the British Scene

### PART II

By W. O. G. Lofts and D. J. Adley

Having dealt in some depth with Sexton Blake's excursions into the world of films, what of other childhood favorites from the English comics and boys weeklies?

We were led to believe that a Greyfriars<sup>1</sup> film was to have been made in the thirties, but from the announcements in the Companion papers perhaps it was best shelved. Some of the unlikeliest members of the cast included Claude Dampier as Mr. Quelch, and Nellie Wallace as the House Dame! Whilst it is true that good actors should be able to vary their personalities to suit the role they play—Dampier had been playing the harmless character with gaping mouth, imbecile stare, who talked dim-witted about Mrs. Gibson for years. With his buck teeth, and nasal drawl it would have been very hard for the audience to accept him as the highly educated, stern but just Master of the Greyfriars Remove. Similarly with Miss Wallace, she was angular, had a beak of a nose, and generally was considered very vulgar with her near knuckle jokes and songs on the music-hall stage. Nothing further could be imagined from a plump house-dame, responsible for the welfare of schoolboys at the famous public school of Greyfriars. Though it must be stressed that both Dampier and Wallace were top of the bill stars and first rate performers within the scope of their own field of entertainment.

Just after the First World War, plans were also made to produce a Tom Merry film (which gives some support that at that period of time St. Jim's<sup>2</sup> was just as popular as Greyfriars, and the scenario was written by Claud D. Lowe. This unfortunately never materialized, but as compensation the writer was allowed to write some substitute Gem stories in the years that followed. Reference has also been made of a film produced by Repton's Film Society in 1927 (their first) entitled "The Hero of St. Jim's," the Director being the famous late John Paddy Carstairs. As the editor of the Collectors Digest suggested, this was probably only privately exhibited, and wonders if there were other films of this nature. This first epic of Repton's would certainly make very interesting viewing today.

The first real evidence we have of films made of comic characters was as far back at 1898 with Ally Sloper<sup>3</sup> at that time the height of his fame. The character was brought to the silver screen from the cartoons of Charles Ross his creator in two very short films. In July "Sloper's Visit to Brighton" and in October just plain "Ally Sloper" very much shorter film. Many years later, in September 1920, and when the character had long lost its appeal, surprisingly a more ambitious series of films were released, based again on Charles Ross's strips under the series title of "Ally Slopers Adventures." There were six of these films each being 2000 feet long with Max Gionte playing the part

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of Sloper, the full list as follows:

1. Ally Sloper Goes Yachting.
2. Ally Sloper Runs a Revue.
3. Ally Sloper's Haunted House.
4. Ally Sloper's Teetotal Island.
5. Ally Sloper's Loan Office.
6. Ally Sloper Goes Bathing.

In 1903 Tom Browne's immortal cartoon characters from *Illustrated Chips*—Weary Willie and Tired Tim,<sup>4</sup> were brought to life by actors James Hagger (Willie) and Walter Hagger (Tim) in the following series of "quickies":

April 1903. Weary Willie and Tired Tim—The Gunpowder Plot. (125 ft.)

July 1903. Weary Willie and Tired Tim—Turn Barbers. (118 ft.)

Sept. 1903. Weary Willie and Tired Tim—A Dead Shot. (150 ft.)

Feb. 1904. Weary Willie and Tired Tim—In Search of Hidden Treasure (280 ft)

Tom Browne scripts were again used in April 1911 for another four films considerably longer than the first, but still very short even today by cartoon standards.

1. The Plum Pudding Stakes. (435 ft.)
2. The Sacred Elephant. (525 ft.)
3. Wanted Field Marshals for the Gorgonzola Army. (570 ft.)
4. The Wild West Westerns. (590 ft.)

It is a curious fact that from a study of the records of the earliest films of this century, it is clear that comedy films about tramps seem to have been in abundance. It is also not known whether the creation of our funny pair Weary Willie and Tired Tim were entirely original by name. There were a number of other films featuring tramps with the same names—but as Tom Browne was not mentioned in the credits, one must assume that they had no connection with the two in question. It is worth listing those traced in case a more informed reader on the early silents can offer further information.

Sept. 1897. Weary Willie (50 ft.)

Sept. 1898. An Overful Seat—alternate title—Weary Willie (75 ft.)

Oct. 1902. The Weary Willies and The Policeman. (100 ft.)

Oct. 1902. Weary Willie and His Pal on the Rampage. (100 ft.)

Feb. 1903. Weary Willie's Wiles. (200 ft.)

July 1905. W. Weary and T. Tired. (250 ft.)

July 1905. Willie and Tim in the Motor Car. (525 ft.)

July 1906. Willie and Tim Get a Surprise. (240 ft.)

July 1908. Weary Willie Steals a Fish. (575 ft.)

Sept. 1908. Weary Willie and Tired Tim on the Mash. (318 ft.)

The May 1909 files record the classic story "Convict 99," a 1060 ft. film from the famous series of stories by Marie Conner and her husband Robert Leighton. After commencing in *Answers* in 1892, it was serialized in *Chips* in a very long run—whilst it should be mentioned that all these stories concerned convicts—most of whom were wrongly convicted. So popular were the tales that they were reprinted yet again in *The Boys Herald*. Also in 1909 appeared "From Gipsy Hands" a Scout story from *The Boys Friend Weekly*, and a few months later in November came "Ching-Chings Revenge" which certainly must have come from E. Harcourt Burrage's famous Victorian Chinese character in boys magazines.

Another very famous character appeared in December 1912 in two films, "Paul Sleuth Crime Investigator" and "Paul Sleuth—The Mystery of the As-torian Crown Prince." Paul Sleuth had first appeared in *Chips* in stories by Stanhope Sprigg, and was described as the keenest and cleverest detective in

London. It was a compliment to the client who secured his services, for it was well known that he took up nothing in which he did not feel a strong personal interest. His assistant was Dirk the Dog Detective, a big Cuban bloodhound, who was eventually to take over the lead in the stories, and push Sleuth to the background. Stories also appeared in *Comic Cuts*, and in the 1913/14 period of the *Wonder*. Still later in the twenties, they appeared in the *Jolly Jester*. The part of Sleuth was played on the screen by Charles Vane, and after the first two films there came "The Murder of Squire Jeffrey" in February 1913, and in the following year came "Paul Sleuth and the Mystic Seven"—a much longer film of 3500 ft. that it was distributed in America as "The Secret Seven."

One amusing item in January 1916, though nothing to do with our own favorites was a 3000 ft. film entitled "The Terrible Tec" featuring the great detective Sherlock Blake! So here we had a combination of the two greatest names in adult and juvenile fiction. This was a parody on Conan Doyle's famous detective. Sherlock Blake lived at Butcher Street assisted by Detective Wrottenclaw and a lady helper named Wow! Produced by Homeland Productions Films and featuring Billy Merston (a famous comedian), it was also run in story form in *Pluck* No. 590, Feb. 19th, 1916.

Jack, Sam, and Pete, the famous characters created by S. Clarke Hook in the *Marvel*, who were a National Institution were the characters of a film in October 1919, and in a title of the same. This longer than usual film, 5000 ft., starred Percy Moran as Jack, Eddie Willey as Sam, and Ernest A. Trimmingham as Pete. Unquestionably these were among the most popular of boyhood favorites in late Victorian and Edwardian days, and it is mystifying why a film should eventually be made when they were on their decline, though maybe they thought they would revive.

January 1921 came the first Pip, Squeak, and Wilfred<sup>5</sup> cartoon based on A. B. Payne's famous strips in *The Daily Mirror*. Entitled "The Wonderful Adventures of Pip, Squeak, and Wilfred" it was previewed at the *Super Cinema* Charing Cross Road—and then shown at the *Polytechnic Cinema*, Regent Street. Drawn by Lancelot Speed the celebrated artist (though A. B. Payne was present at shows giving sketches away to readers) it was reported that just as many adults were in the audience as children. At least three other cartoons were produced and shown all over the country to packed houses.

The famous characters of "The Two Pickles" from *The Rainbow*, and drawn by H. O'Neill also appeared in film in October 1922. Peter was played by George Brassard and Pauline by Myrtle Peters, the full title list as follows:

1. The Sweep (990 ft.)
2. Spring Cleaning (925 ft.)
3. Playing at Doctors (850 ft.)
4. Cutting Out Pictures (850 ft.)
5. Paper Hanging (825 ft.)
6. Making Paper Money (845 ft.)
7. Peter the Barber (775 ft.)
8. Making Good Resolutions (705 ft.)
9. Boy Scouts (875 ft.)
10. The Conjurors (650 ft.)
11. Football Fun (810 ft.)
12. Soled and Healed (875 ft.)

Bonzo—George Ernest Study's lovable little dog first appeared in film in October 1924, only a year after his initial appearance in *The Graphic*, and a

number of films followed.

Of course the old bloods were also put on film for in July 1926 in a BMPA (New Era) Production G. A. Baughan starred in "Sweeney Todd" in the title role—but this was a burlesque of the original story. Far more serious was the film two years later in September 1928 released by QTS Productions (Ideal) again just titled "Sweeney Todd." This time the character actor Moore Marriott (Harbottle in the Will Hay films) took the leading part in this 6500 foot film. But probably the most memorable film of this story was "Sweeney Todd the Demon Barber of Fleet Street" a 68 minute film released by MGM in March 1936 and Starring Tod Slaughter—himself an old collector of bloods and Sexton Blake stories. This film has been shown on the TV screens in recent years.

One could add a host of other boyhood favorites in the old papers and comics that were famous on the films, but there is a borderline that we feel should not be crossed within the context of this article. A considerable number of these characters were featured in boys papers purely on the strength of the film or possibly the novel, and therefore do not owe their origin to the weekly publication.

Amongst those favorites were for instance Tarzan, whose growth of popularity spread from the novel, to the strip, and then on the film. He of course appeared in early issues of Boys Cinema. Simon Templar—The Saint—who found his way into The Thriller,<sup>6</sup> together with a galaxy of stories that were turned into film, sometimes at a later date it is true, but substantially they don't fit into this article as their origin was in book-form. Other famous characters were The Toff (John Creasey) and Norman Conquest (Berkeley Gray).

The favorite cartoons of Popeye, Mickey Mouse, Blondie, Joe Palooka, and Batman amongst others were also made into film—but they were of course American, and do not come into this article of essentially English Films. So we must leave out the host of characters in Film Fun, Kinema Comic, Radio Fun, TV Comic—such as Laurel and Hardy, George Formby, Joe E. Brown, and dozens of others who were household names.

Why some of our favorites were never filmed is something of a puzzle. Nelson Lee<sup>7</sup> for instance, and it bears out perhaps an old editors statement that Paul Sleuth (who was filmed) was a far more popular character at one stage. The A.P.'s biggest money spinners Tiger Tim and The Bruin boys, one would have thought would have been ideal for a series of cartoons. Charles Hamilton's brilliant creation The Rio Kid would have been a hit, with the tremendous popularity of cowboy films in the twenties and thirties. What about Murray Graydon's famous Captain Justice<sup>8</sup> in Modern Boy, and the list is endless.

As far as it is known, none of the D. C. Thomson's characters have ever appeared on the screen, even though Dixon Hawke<sup>10</sup> (their first) has been running continuously since 1919, and still appearing in The Sunday Post. This may be explained by the Dundee's firm policy for not having any publicity outside the realm of their own publications. Things may have changed in recent years, and they may now have a Syndication department. Certainly in pre-second world war days their commercial outlook was all wrong in not exploiting their copyright characters in the money spinning media of advertising, and in the film world.

The mind boggles at how successful such wonderful comic creations as Desperate Dan, Nero & Zero, Nosey Parker, Key-Hole Kate, Korky the Cat, Dennis the Menace, Beryl the Peril, Pansy Potter, Lord Snooty and his pals would have made in cartoon films. Generations of old readers would have

loved them, in remembering them from their childhood days. The thrilling adventure stories from the Wizard of the Wolf or Kabul and his manservant Chung in Northern India would have at least made an excellent serial, and the same could be said for Lionhearted Logan of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the Far North. Movies in the fantasy field could easily have been produced of Wilson the ageless athlete would be a superb theme. His really astounding feats in the world of sport would delight old and young is reputed to be the greatest story ever told to boys.

As mentioned earlier, the list is endless of juvenile characters that could be made into films. Whilst only a tiny fraction have materialized, perhaps we can take some small grains of comfort. If they had been made, and were like the majority of Sexton Blake films, we have at least been spared the disappointment of seeing them on the silver screen.

1. A famous public school of fiction in the boys weekly paper THE MAGNET
2. A famous public school of fiction in the boys weekly paper THE GEM.
3. England's first regular comic character.
4. Two tramps who regularly appeared on the front page of the comic CHIPS for over 50 years, drawn by numerous artists. Tom Browne who created them dying in 1910 after becoming a famous water-color artist.
5. An unusual combination of animals—a dog, penguin and rabbit.
6. A weekly paper for the older boy and adult market with detective/mystery /thriller stories each week, started off by Edgar Wallace.
7. Next most famous detective to Sexton Blake in boys fiction.
8. A sort of Captain Kettle—but science fiction adventure.
9. A Scottish juvenile publisher—possibly biggest in world.
10. A detective.

Acknowledgements are made to our friend Denis Gifford and his mammoth work "The British Film Catalogue" 1895-1970.

### TALES OF CELEBRATED HIGHWAYMEN

Issued without numbering. Numbers used are in the sequence advertised

- (1) Claude Duval, the Dashing Highwayman
- (2) Life and Adventures of Dick Clinton, The Mysterious Highwayman
- (3) The Adventures of Tom King and the Story of His Romanic Life
- (4) Ned Scarlet, the Daring Highwayman
- (5) Captain Hawkes; or, The Shadow of Death
- (6) Paul Clifford; or, The Reformed Highwayman
- (7) Fearless Fred. A Companion to Claude Duval

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## Who Wrote the Pledge of Allegiance?

By Louise Harris

James Bailey Upham is the true author. Does anyone know how the Pledge came to be written? This is the answer to the first question. In 1886 Mr. Upham, after fourteen years of employment by **The Youth's Companion**, was made the head of the Premium Department (Promotion) and a member of the firm of Perry Mason & Company of Boston, Massachusetts.

Patriotism was at a very low ebb after the Civil War. Mr. Upham suggested to combat this attitude a Flag be placed over every school in the country with the children earning the money to instill better care for it. To keep the fantastic success he next suggested in 1890 an essay contest on **THE PATRIOTIC INFLUENCE OF THE AMERICAN FLAG WHEN RAISED OVER THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**. The teachers judged the best essay for each school, sending them to The Companion office for The Companion judges to judge the best for each State and Territory. The prize, a Flag, was presented in time for a Fourth of July program raising the Flag followed by a big parade. For this occasion Hezekiah Butterworth wrote his famous poem, **RAISING THE SCHOOL HOUSE FLAG**.

Enthusiasm continued to grow. Mr. Upham was determined to keep the interest alive with a Salute, or a Pledge, or both. 1892 was coming up. Congress on April 25, 1890 authorized the Columbian World's Fair to be held in 1893 at Chicago, Illinois. Why not have the Pledge then with every school having a program at the same time as the Fair Grounds were being dedicated. While Mr. Upham went to work on his Pledge, The Companion approached the schools for ideas taking them to the Governing Board of the World's Fair who endorsed it wholeheartedly. Mr. Bonney, the originator and president of the World's Congress Auxiliary in charge of all school programs inside and outside the Fair Grounds, sent United States Commissioner of Education, William T. Harris who was the National Chairman of school programs, to the Superintendents Association Convention held in Brooklyn, New York in February 1892 to present Resolutions to establish the school program. The Superintendents formed the National Committee for all school programs for the World's Fair. The Resolutions were unanimously accepted and an Executive Committee was appointed to make the school program only with help from all Educators in each State and Territory plus the news media which was already at work on the project. **The Youth's Companion** was made the chairman and the office the headquarters. Mr. Bonney and Mr. Ford appointed Francis Bellamy as acting chairman to represent The Companion. He had resigned the ministry in April 1891 and left the church in June to work for The Companion. He was the only one on both committees who was not an outstanding educator.

The program was published in The Companion issue for September 8, 1892 including the Pledge of Allegiance over the names of the entire committee. It was recited from memory by over 13 million school children on October 21, 1892. The date had been changed by Act of Congress to coincide with October 12, 1492. It grew in popularity along with all the other patriotic programs made for the schools. There were no more after the Centennial of Abraham Lincoln for after Mr. Upham passed on in 1905, there was no one with his vision to carry on the work.

When the Pledge became so popular Bellamy began quietly to make a claim for the authorship since the Pledge was published without the author's name according to the Anonymous Policy The Companion had to make the Paper into "a person" who visited the homes every week. Mr. Ford believed

this possible if there were a large staff to give their best to The Companion. Bellamy did not like the Policy.

By 1917 patriotism was at a very high level with World War I in progress. Mr. Fison, the librarian of the Malden Public Library wrote The Companion for the true author of the Pledge of Allegiance. The Companion decided to break the Anonymous Policy and replied:—

"We can assure you positively that there is no truth in the story the 'Salute to the Flag' was written by the late Oliver Optic. The other account, that which credited the late James B. Upham is correct" and "It was Mr. Upham who started and mainly carried through The Companion Campaign to place a flag on every schoolhouse in the United States . . . The 'Salute to the Flag' was written by him in collaboration with the editors in connection with the campaign, as a part of the ceremony to be observed by the schoolchildren."

Now that the silence had been broken The Companion decided to tell the story for all readers. The December 20, 1917 issue carries the story of Mr. Upham's work and the Pledge and how the school celebration came to be. Quote:—

"In preparation for the event a committee was appointed consisting of all the state superintendents of education and a special sub-committee that included a representative of The Youth's Companion and that made The Companion its headquarters was named to prepare a uniform official programme. The chief incidents in the programme were to be the raising of the flag and the salute and pledge. Mr. Upham had already written a form of pledge very much like that which is now so well known and with the help of other members of the firm and of members of the editorial staff the present and final form was written. I Pledge Allegiance . . . In that form it was offered to the committee, and by them accepted, and from The Youth's Companion building it was sent to every quarter of the land."

Notice Mr. Upham had already written the pledge when the Executive Committee was appointed. This is very important and the key to the settlement of the controversy but it required much time for minute, detailed research of many records that have not been considered before by any committee. Charles M. Thompson, at The Companion from 1890 to 1925, has written the Upham Pledge was passed to members and returned substantially the same. The Companion has stated the ending was shortened for the smallest school child to remember for the Pledge was given from memory and not read as many say today.

In July 1922 Seth Mendell passed on. He had been trained by Mr. Ford to take over the management of the Paper. He had kept very careful records of staff meetings. In 1910 he had refused to break the Anonymous Policy for Bellamy when he wrote asking for credit as the author of the Pledge. Now with the death of Mr. Mendell the fireworks started in earnest for Bellamy thought the last key witness to the writing of the Pledge was gone—his committee of outstanding educators, Mr. Ford, Mr. Upham and now Mr. Mendell but the TRUTH will out!

By the early 1920s the radio was making its appearance. The Companion was quick as usual to use any media of communication to encourage the public to acquire useful knowledge. Late in 1922 The Companion asked on their radio quiz program who wrote the Pledge of Allegiance. Answers flooded the office with only about half giving the correct author—James Bailey Upham. The others credited George Washington all the way to Oliver Optic, believe it or not! The answer given in the June 7, 1923 issue states:—

"The Pledge of Allegiance was written in the office of the Youth's Com-

panion about twenty-five years ago. The idea originated in the mind of James B. Upham, a member of the Perry Mason Co., who, assisted by his associates in the firm and by the editors of The Companion, produced the Pledge as it stands today."

The quiz brought forth many comments. The Boston Herald in the June 21, 1923 issue published an article by Vallindigham favoring Bellamy. The article certainly leaves a feeling the right person should be credited and a crying need for good flag laws. The Companion, in their answer in the June 24 issue, again gives Mr. Upham credit for the Pledge and all the flag programs. Quote:—

"Mr. Upham was a very modest, lovable man. He shunned publicity but his was a wonderfully prolific mind and its general trend was always along the lines of patriotism and Americanization."

The quiz led to the printing of the leaflet with the complete story and sent to all public libraries along with a poster in colors containing the Pledge. How I wish for a copy for the C. A. Stephens Collection at Brown University! The story contains what had already been printed previously plus more details to clarify false statements. One Quote:—

"When the Flag Pledge first appeared the second 'to'—the one immediately preceding 'the Republic'—was accidentally left out. The error, which of course was immaterial, was soon corrected."

Also:—"The name of Francis Bellamy of Massachusetts is sometimes associated with the Pledge by reason of the fact Mr. Bellamy then a member of The Youth's Companion staff, represented The Youth's Companion on the Executive Committee that had charge of the preparation for the National School Celebration. Mr. Bellamy however, was not the author of the Pledge. The name of the late Frank E. Bellamy, a Kansas schoolboy, has also occasionally been connected with the Pledge, for the reason that in the school year 1895-96—four years after the Pledge first appeared—he submitted it as his own in a school contest. As the Pledge was apparently not well known in his community at that time its appearance made a considerable stir, but since the facts concerning its origin have become widely known Bellamy's claim to being the author of it has been dropped. Complete and trustworthy surveys of the entire Frank E. Bellamy controversy have been prepared by both the Kansas State Historical Society and the Women's Relief Corps and are on file at the respective headquarters of these organizations."

Then again in the November 4, 1926 issue when The Companion answered the mail concerning the Grand Prize of a six-week trip to Europe for two with all expenses paid, there is a great tribute to Mr. Upham. To quote will be too long, hence a condensed form. Mr. Upham, a long time loyal member of The Companion Staff is responsible for the prize. The growth of the Premium Idea came from his friendly nature—"The more we can do for our subscribers," he said, "the faster will The Companion grow." He proved really fine premiums could be given. His genius developed something better than anything on the market. He worked long and tirelessly with inventors and manufacturers for new products. To quote:—

"Mr. Upham passed away twenty-five years ago. How his kindly nature would have rejoiced to know that this year The Companion would be able to offer more and better premiums than ever before—with a trip to Europe as the finest Grand Prize of all. He used to dream about a great prize like this. Now his dream has come true.

"I want to add that Mr. Upham was also the father of the Pledge to the Flag, and originator of the plan of putting the United States flag on our schoolhouses.

"He was a useful American, and his work lives on after him. Let us hope that you and I may achieve some good work in our time."

An examination of the many Premium Issues will prove this appraisalment. The Records of Congress show a detailed authorization for every part of the World's Columbian Exposition. President Harrison was kept informed of the progress so he could carry out his part of the program.

Bellamy, after his unsuccessful attempt in 1910, waited 31 years before making a public claim to the authorship and a threat to take The Companion to court. No witnesses were left. He felt safe. Thirty-one years was the length of time for a false claim with a court case. His letters and affidavits are full of false claims, contradictions and fantasies of what he wanted the facts to be.

He claimed he wrote the Pledge in TWO hours in August 1892 (no definite day). This claim is impossible for the Pledge was in print by September 1 for the schools and in The Companion for September 8, 1892. The old flat beds were used meaning two runs were required for the paper was printed only on one side at a time. The type was set by hand, proof reading and corrections made before locking the set up into form. After printing the Paper was folded by hand—three folds—prepared for mail and time allowed for mail delivery since the date September 8 means the Paper was in the homes on that day. The process took at least two months for over 500,000 copies.

The 1939 Committee did not do good work. They utterly disregarded the true source of the origin of the Pledge, namely The Youth's Companion, meaning James Bailey Upham. All affidavits favoring Mr. Upham were thrown out as being too far away from the actual happening but Bellamy's were accepted even to those who were only convinced he wrote it. It is reported the Committee took only seven hours to come to a decision. What kind of research could this be? This is too serious a question to be handled so lightly.

The report of the Legislative Research Service of the Library of Congress did not give a conclusive, definite decision. They left a big question for they felt there was more evidence in existence somewhere. There it stands until I accidentally stumbled onto the controversy in my research of The Youth's Companions. Here are the proofs that have never been considered and what the 1957 Committee were looking for. James Bailey Upham is the true author of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Most of these facts are documented in the book, THE FLAG OVER THE SCHOOLHOUSE, copyright 1971. Research continues on the subject.

#### Material Researched:—

The Youth's Companions from 1888 for the patriotic programs.

World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago 1893 by Trumbull White and William Igleheart, copyright by T. W. Zeigler.

Acts of Congress.

Superintendents Records for Brooklyn Convention 1892.

National Education Association Records for 1891-1893.

President Harrison's Life for 1890-1892.

1939 and 1957 Reports.

Anything that came along concerning this era.

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## Letters

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

Allow me to offer my very high opinion of the DNR. As far as I am concerned it is the best of its kind on the market. The articles are not only informative and interesting but well written and reflect concentrated scholarly research. It is great to know that a publication such as this rises above some of the sub-culture "fan club newsletters," talky, but singularly non-informative bi-monthlys. Incidentally I have joined the Henty Society which promises for all interested "Hentysonians" to be another high-quality publication.

Does the Happy Hour Brotherhood have any kind of slogan or "fraternity song"? I should be glad to consider setting to music any lyrics I might receive if there is any interest. Let me know.

Yours most sincerely

Peter Walther ("Josiah Crabtree")

I have received my first copy of "The Henty Society Bulletin" and found it very enlightening and enjoyable. A must for all collectors of Henty. The price is \$6.00 per year. Address is Roy Henty, 60 Paineswick Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England.

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Dear Eddie:

Directing Used Book Sales can be a rewarding experience, even though frustrations and disappointments may be many, there are some compensations.

This was a profitable activity, even though the weather and a two-day delay in the erection of the tent reduced our profit by \$1500.00 to \$2000.00.

For those who have an interest in books and the related activities that go with used-book sales, I will take the time to tell you of one of the unusual and interesting experiences, that made up for the many problems and difficulties that delayed our opening from Sunday to Wednesday.

In the midst of all our problems, when I would have liked to get out of town and say, "To HeXX with it all," I received a phone call asking, "Do you still want books?"

By that time, I had just about had it, the rain was getting worse, the tent was still on the ground, the phone and people were driving us "nuts." Tempers were short, but from force of habit, I answered, "Yes, we still need books." I was given a woman's name and phone number, and told that she had a lot of books, if we would pick them up. As the location given was not too far from my home, eleven or twelve miles, I made the call to make arrangements for the pick-up.

Upon making the call, I was asked, "Would I bring some boxes." This was no problem as I always have a few in the car or at least available.

I was to look for a red farmhouse, near some other outbuildings, the mailbox post would be leaning and the box number not all there. It was across the road from a place called Pebble Acres, and as an after thought, "Don't let the dogs bother you."

Now, what would you expect? Well, she was right all the way, more than I could ever guess. First, I arrived a little early, say 8:30 a.m. Yes, it was a red farmhouse, the mailbox was leaning and the numbers were not all there. And the dogs rushed to the fence like a pack of wolves.

But here the similarity ends. Farmhouse? Well, yes, but not the kind you and I might have imagined. The original building was a three room log cabin, and it had been retained in all its glory of more than 100 years ago.

The three rooms, two down and one up were surrounded by additions to the original building and still stood out in all the glory of the early days.

And the landscaping was in tune with the house.

After entering, I was led to a ladder, one that permitted access to the upstairs, through an opening in the ceiling. I was told later that this was the original equipment and they had been in use more than 100 years ago. After being led up the ladder, I was told to duck my head due to the low passage to the upstairs library.

We entered a large room, four walls of books, plus shelves in the two dormers that extended out over the roof.

With a sweep of her hand, the lady said to me, "Take them all."

I, who though the eight or so boxes, had to make some 33 trips from that second floor library to my car. Fortunately, there was a more convenient stairs for going down, and that was no place to be tipsy.

And there were more downstairs.

When I finally left some 2½ hours later, the trunk and back seat were full, and the front seat was so crowded that I had to sit on the extreme left side.

I was up until midnight classifying and pricing them for resale the next day. There were no condensed books or book-club editions, no paperbacks, and just a few text books. Primarily wartime fiction, with a double amount on the Civil War. Much of the fiction was 1st edition. All of the books were relatively new, say, published in the last 20 to 25 years. And many of them were in dust jacket.

These kind of "pick-ups" do not happen very often, but it is the kind we all hope for as we make these book pick-ups in response to our "ads" in the local papers.

As a matter of information, throughout this drive for old books, and we gathered in some 20,000 or more, I found nothing on my "want" list. Yes, there were several interesting and old books, but nothing that I really wanted.

But it was a successful project and already we are planning for a repeat performance next fall. Hopefully we can avoid the same mistakes and errors in communication.

Sincerely, Willis J. Potthoff

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

I wonder if you can help me in a search I have been making for several years? It relates to two of the David Grayson books: "Adventures in Friendship" and "The Friendly Road."

As you know, I am sure, "David Grayson" was the pen name for Ray Stannard Baker, one of the "muckrakers" in the early 1900's. Today we would call him an investigative reporter. In 1894, as a reporter for a Chicago newspaper, he made the march with Coney's army from Ohio to Washington. Around the turn of the century, after his work on McClure's and the American magazine, he settled on a farm and wrote the series of "David Grayson" stories. (Neither the exact time nor the place at which he did this work is clear from his autobiography, but I have a feeling they were done in New England, perhaps in Vermont). They were published first as magazine articles, then brought together into books; at one time or another I have had most of them, but I would like to round out the set.

"Adventures in Friendship" was published by Doubleday in 1910; "The Friendly Road" had the same publisher: Doubleday, Page & Company—in 1913. These, along with "Adventures in Contentment" were published as a

"David Grayson Omnibus" in 1925, and they seem also to have been published as "Adventures of David Grayson" in the early 1920's. I would like to have "Friendship," "Friendly Road" or the "Omnibus" if they are available. I realize this is somewhat out of your line, but I have a feeling they may be found in your area, if anywhere.

I still find the "Dime Novel Round-Up" a continuing pleasure.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely, W. B. Ragsdale

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## RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

### CONCERNING DIME NOVELS, BOYS BOOKS, ETC.

**Nature in Western Popular Literature from the Dime Novel to Zane Grey.** By Daniel J. Wilson. Article appearing in NORTH DAKOTA QUARTERLY, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota 48202. \$2.00. A good article on the theme of Nature in popular literature about the west. Traces the treatment of nature (the great American garden, the idyllic forest, etc.) as seen through the writers of dime novels and a few of the popular writers such as Hamlin Garland, Bret Harte and Mark Twain. This issue of the North Dakota Quarterly is rich in articles using dime novels as a source. Included are: **Brothers, Bets and Bars: Popular Literature as Guidebook to the Urban Underground, 1840-1870**, by Adrienne Siegel. Well illustrated article using the books on city life issued by Dick and Fitzgerald, Robert DeWitt and other publishers who featured such titles as *The Belle of the Bowery*, *Secrets of the Great City*, *The Secrets of the Twin Cities*, etc. **The Vanishing Race: Conflicting Images of the American Indian in Children's literature, 1880-1930.** Reviews the Indian character as depicted by dime novelists, and selected boys authors such as W. O. Stoddard, Joseph Altsheler, George Bird Grinnel and James Willard Schultz. The dime novels come out pretty bad in this treatise.

**DIME NOVELS APPEARED BY THE THOUSANDS DURING THE LATE 1800's**, by John A. Dinan. Article in Tri-State Trader, Box 90, Knightstown, Indiana 46148. A very cursory article about dime novels in general, many errors of fact. Illustrated with two rare Beadle items.

**NOVELS THAT BOYS OF A CENTURY AGO COULDN'T PUT DOWN**, by Bill Blackbeard. Article in Smithsonian, November 1977. A good article about Alger, but using Maye's book as factual. The writer would benefit by a subscription to the Newsboy, official organ of the Horatio Alger Society.

**BRONCHO BUSTING.** Reprint of a chapter from Tip Top Weekly No. 457 in the 33rd Annual Grand National Rodeo Souvenir Booklet held at the Cow Palace, San Francisco, Oct. 28 through Nov. 6, 1977. Cover of booklet has a great reproduction of the cover of the Tip Top Weekly. The Merriwell story was supplied by David Soibelman, an enthusiastic Happy Hour Brotherhood member.

**JAPANESE IN U. S. OUTDO HORATIO ALGER**, by Robert C. Toth. Item in Los Angeles Times for October 17, 1977. Article on the success of Japanese in the U. S. "Even in a country whose patron saint is the Horatio Alger Hero, there is no parallel to this success story." Sent in by David Soibelman.

### A DIME NOVEL COLLECTOR'S BOOK SHELF

YESTERDAY'S AUTHORS OF BOOKS FOR CHILDREN, Edited by Anne Commire, Gale Research Co., Book Tower, Detroit, Mich. 48226, 258 pages. Size 8¾x11¼". The authors and illustrators are arranged alphabetically starting with Andy Adams and concluding with Kate Douglas (Smith) Wiggin. The sketches are divided into segments as Personal, Career, Writings, this last being a complete bibliographic checklist of the author's books giving publisher, date and in most cases illustrators. Among the writers of interest to boy's book collectors are Joseph Altsheler, Edward S. Ellis, William Heyliger and James Willard Schultz. There are some omissions in the list of Altsheler and Ellis. But this is understandable when a prolific writer such as Ellis is checked out. It is one of the best and most complete list on Ellis ever compiled. One disappointment is the fact that Alger is not included in this first volume.—Stanley A. Pachon.

### RECENT DOVER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO COLLECTORS

The Extraordinary Adventures of Arsene Lupin, Gentleman Burglar, by Maurice Leblanc. \$3.00.

Little Novels, by Wilkie Collins. \$3.50.

The Curious Mr. Tarrant. 8 Detective Stories, by C. Daly King. \$3.50.

The Dream Detective, by Sax Rohmer. \$3.00.

The Haunted Monastery and The Chinese Maze Murders. Two Chinese Detective Stories by Robert Van Gulik. \$5.00.

Clues of the Caribbees. Being Certain Criminal Investigations of Henry Poggioli, Ph.D., by T. S. Stribling. \$3.50.

Jurgen, a 1920's fantasy novel). \$4.00.

Dover Publications continues its policy of reprinting items of interest to detective and fantasy story collectors. Their address is 180 Varick St., New York, N. Y. 10014.

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